

CHAPTER XV

FIGHTING FOR LIFE

THE last hours of this night of the 24th of January were spent in conversation. The two families had so much to say, so many memories to recall, so many fears for the future to discuss ! No one thought of going to sleep, except little Bob. But until day-break M. Zermatt and his companions did not relax their keen vigilance, relieving one another on duty near the two carronades, one loaded with ball, the other with grape-shot. Shark's Island was larger than Whale Island, which lay two and a half miles away to the north, at the entrance to Flamingo Bay. It was an oval, about half a mile long and a quarter of a mile across at its widest part, thus having a circumference of something under two miles. By day it had been comparatively easy to keep watch over it, and as it was of the utmost importance, that an equally effective watch should be maintained *imm* sunset to sunrise, it was decided, on Captain Gould's suggestion, that the whole of the shore should be patrolled.